

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 29, 2005

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2005–06 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1253

Introduced by Assembly Member Coto

February 22, 2005

An act to ~~add Section 51225 to~~ *amend, repeal, and add Section 51225.3* of the Education Code, relating to public education.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1253, as amended, Coto. ~~Middle school and junior high school: requirements for matriculation~~ *Pupils: graduation requirements.*

~~Under existing law, except as specified, a pupil may not receive a diploma of graduation from high school if that pupil, while in grades 9 to 12, inclusive, has not completed specified academic requirements.~~

~~This bill would provide that a pupil may not matriculate to high school unless that pupil has satisfied all requirements of the required curriculum for middle school or junior high school, as applicable, adopted by the governing board of the school district.~~

~~The bill would also impose a state-mandated local program by requiring each school district to develop programs to provide background knowledge and support for pupils who have not yet achieved the skills and knowledge required for promotion to high school.~~

This bill, commencing with the 2008-09 school year, would increase the number of courses a pupil is required to complete to receive a diploma of graduation from high school by requiring an additional year course in English and mathematics, 2 year courses in a language other than English, a year course in visual and performing arts, and a year course in specified elective subjects, unless a pupil is exempted upon petition by the pupil and his or her parent or legal guardian. The

bill would also require the governing board of a school district, with the active involvement of parents or guardians, administrators, teachers, and pupils, to adopt alternative means for pupils to complete the prescribed course of study to be required for graduation, as specified, and would require the governing board to make available to pupils and parents or guardians information regarding requirements for graduation and specified alternative means for completing the prescribed course of study. These requirements would impose a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to these statutory provisions.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: yes.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 ~~SECTION 1. (a) The Legislature finds and declares all of the~~
- 2 ~~following:~~
- 3 ~~(1) Up to half of the pupils in many ninth grade classes in~~
- 4 ~~California are socially promoted to high school, lacking the skills~~
- 5 ~~and background knowledge necessary to complete the work~~
- 6 ~~required in high school.~~
- 7 ~~(2) Many of these pupils are frequently truant from school and~~
- 8 ~~create problems in communities, or they remain on campus~~
- 9 ~~creating truancy problems and campus disturbances.~~
- 10 ~~(3) Many of these pupils also drop out of high school and~~
- 11 ~~cause many problems for our society.~~
- 12 ~~(4) In order to increase expectations with respect to the~~
- 13 ~~academic performance of pupils in our high schools, we must~~
- 14 ~~have an orderly campus environment that is made up of pupils~~
- 15 ~~who are prepared to perform the work that is required in high~~
- 16 ~~school courses.~~

1 ~~(b) It is the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation that~~
2 ~~would require that pupils complete junior high school or middle~~
3 ~~school before being promoted to high school.~~

4 ~~SEC. 2. Section 51225 is added to the Education Code, to~~
5 ~~read:~~

6 ~~51225. (a) A pupil may not matriculate to high school unless~~
7 ~~that pupil has satisfied all requirements of the required~~
8 ~~curriculum for middle school or junior high school, as applicable,~~
9 ~~adopted by the governing board of the school district.~~

10 ~~(b) Each school district shall develop programs to provide~~
11 ~~background knowledge and support for pupils who have not yet~~
12 ~~achieved the skills and knowledge required for promotion to high~~
13 ~~school.~~

14 *SECTION 1. (a) It is the intent of the Legislature to enact*
15 *legislation to ensure that all high school graduates are prepared*
16 *for entrance to postsecondary educational institutions, or to the*
17 *workforce, or both. It is also the intent of the Legislature to*
18 *require that all pupils in high school be afforded an opportunity*
19 *to take a rigorous college preparatory curriculum, and that*
20 *pupils be allowed to opt not to take this college preparatory*
21 *curriculum, and to pursue an alternative rigorous sequence of*
22 *courses aimed at opportunities in vocational careers and*
23 *education at the California Community Colleges, only upon*
24 *parent and pupil petition.*

25 *(b) It is the intent of the Legislature to authorize pupils and*
26 *their parents or legal guardians who petition the school board to*
27 *opt not to take the college preparatory curriculum required for*
28 *graduation to adopt a course of study that includes practical*
29 *demonstration of skills and experience, career technical*
30 *education offered by the high school or by a regional*
31 *occupational center or program, a supervised work experience*
32 *program, interdisciplinary studies, independent study, or credit*
33 *earned at a postsecondary institution. It is the intent of the*
34 *Legislature to require that requirements for graduation, and*
35 *specified alternative modes for completing the prescribed*
36 *courses of study, be made available to pupils, to their parents or*
37 *legal guardians, and to the public.*

38 ~~SEC. 2. Section 51225.3 of the Education Code is amended to~~
39 ~~read:~~

1 51225.3. (a) ~~Commencing with the 1988-89 school year, no~~
2 A pupil shall *not* receive a diploma of graduation from high
3 school who, while in grades 9 to 12, inclusive, has not completed
4 all of the following:

5 (1) At least the following numbers of courses in the subjects
6 specified, each course having a duration of one year, unless
7 otherwise specified:

8 (A) Three courses in English.

9 (B) Two courses in mathematics.

10 (C) Two courses in science, including biological and physical
11 sciences.

12 (D) Three courses in social studies, including United States
13 history and geography; world history, culture, and geography; a
14 one-semester course in American government and civics; and a
15 one-semester course in economics.

16 (E) One course in visual or performing arts or foreign
17 language. For the purposes of satisfying the requirement
18 specified in this subparagraph, a course in American Sign
19 Language ~~shall be deemed~~ *is* a course in a *foreign* language ~~other~~
20 ~~than English.~~

21 (F) Two courses in physical education, unless the pupil has
22 been exempted pursuant to provisions of this code.

23 (2) Other coursework that the governing board of the school
24 district may by rule specify.

25 (b) The governing board, with the active involvement of
26 parents, administrators, teachers, and pupils, shall adopt
27 alternative means for pupils to complete the prescribed course of
28 study which may include practical demonstration of skills and
29 competencies, supervised work experience or other outside
30 school experience, career technical education classes offered in
31 high schools, courses offered by regional occupational centers or
32 programs, interdisciplinary study, independent study, and credit
33 earned at a postsecondary institution. Requirements for
34 graduation and specified alternative modes for completing the
35 prescribed course of study shall be made available to pupils,
36 parents, and the public.

37 (c) *This section shall become inoperative on July 1, 2008, and,*
38 *as of January 1, 2009, is repealed, unless a later enacted statute*
39 *that is enacted before January 1, 2009, deletes or extends the*
40 *dates on which it becomes inoperative and is repealed.*

1 *SEC. 3. Section 51225.3 is added to the Education Code, to*
2 *read:*

3 *51225.3. (a) Commencing with the 2008-09 school year and*
4 *except as provided in subdivision (b), a pupil shall not receive a*
5 *diploma of graduation from high school if he or she has not*
6 *completed, while in grades 9 to 12, inclusive, the following*
7 *college preparatory curriculum that is required for admission to*
8 *the California State University or the University of California:*

9 *(1) At least the following numbers of courses in the subjects*
10 *specified, each course having a duration of one year, unless*
11 *otherwise specified:*

12 *(A) Four courses in English.*

13 *(B) Three courses in mathematics. Four courses are*
14 *recommended. At a minimum, courses shall include topics*
15 *contained in elementary and advanced algebra and two and*
16 *three dimensional geometry.*

17 *(C) Two courses in science, including biology, chemistry, or*
18 *physics. Three courses are recommended.*

19 *(D) Two courses in social studies, including a year course in*
20 *United States history and geography; a year course in world*
21 *history, culture, and geography; a one-semester course in*
22 *American government and civics; and a one-semester course in*
23 *economics.*

24 *(E) One course in visual and performing arts.*

25 *(F) Two courses in physical education, unless the pupil has*
26 *been exempted pursuant to the provisions of this code.*

27 *(G) Two courses in the same foreign language.*

28 *(H) One elective course in any of the following areas:*

29 *(i) Visual and performing arts.*

30 *(ii) History.*

31 *(iii) Social science.*

32 *(iv) English.*

33 *(v) Advanced mathematics.*

34 *(vi) Laboratory science.*

35 *(vii) A language other than English.*

36 *(2) Other coursework that the governing board of the school*
37 *district may, by rule, specify.*

38 *(b) A pupil and his or her parent or guardian may petition a*
39 *school counselor or administrator to exempt the pupil from the*
40 *requirements of subdivision (a). If granted, the exemption would*

1 *authorize the pupil to receive a diploma of graduation from high*
2 *school by completing the minimum requirements specified in this*
3 *subdivision. The pupil and his or her parent or guardian shall be*
4 *informed that the completion of the minimum requirements*
5 *specified in this subdivision does not preclude the pupil from*
6 *enrolling in a community college upon graduation, but may not*
7 *prepare the pupil to meet the requirements for admission to the*
8 *California State University or the University of California:*

9 *(1) At least the following numbers of courses in the subjects*
10 *specified, each course having a duration of one year, unless*
11 *otherwise specified:*

12 *(A) Three courses in English.*

13 *(B) Two courses in mathematics.*

14 *(C) Two courses in science, including biological and physical*
15 *sciences.*

16 *(D) Three courses in social studies, including United States*
17 *history and geography; world history, culture, and geography; a*
18 *one-semester course in American government and civics; and a*
19 *one-semester course in economics.*

20 *(E) One course in visual or performing arts or foreign*
21 *language. For the purposes of satisfying the requirement*
22 *specified in this subparagraph, a course in American Sign*
23 *Language is a course in a foreign language.*

24 *(F) Two courses in physical education, unless the pupil has*
25 *been exempted pursuant to provisions of this code.*

26 *(2) Other coursework that the governing board of the school*
27 *district may, by rule, specify.*

28 *(c) The governing board, with the active involvement of*
29 *parents or guardians, administrators, teachers, and pupils, shall*
30 *adopt alternative means for pupils to complete the prescribed*
31 *course of study to be required for graduation, which may include*
32 *practical demonstration of skills and competencies, supervised*
33 *work experience or other outside school experience, vocational*
34 *education classes offered in a high school, courses offered by a*
35 *regional occupational center or program, interdisciplinary study,*
36 *independent study, or credit earned at a postsecondary*
37 *institution. Information regarding requirements for graduation*
38 *and specified alternative means for completing the prescribed*
39 *course of study shall be made available by the governing board*
40 *to pupils, parents, and the public.*

1 (d) *For purposes of this section, “year” means school year.*

2 (e) *This section shall become operative on July 1, 2008.*

3 ~~SEC. 3.~~

4 SEC. 4. If the Commission on State Mandates determines that
5 this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to
6 local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made
7 pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division
8 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.

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